

HEAVY SNOWFALL MONDAY

The heaviest snowfall of the season came Monday. Estimates of the depth varied from five to seven inches. It was general, reaching a depth of ten inches in some sections of Missouri.

Warmer weather has just about removed the white blanket, and the resulting moisture has been much appreciated by the farmers. Last night a steady rain was falling.

RIVER FARM SOLD

The sixty-acre farm one-half mile north of the Big St. Francois river bridge was sold this week by the owner Edward Labitske of St. Louis to Oscar Stacy. The deal was handled by Roy Shetley, United Farm agent.

Completing a five months course in air craft maintenance and repair, Private Stanton W. Kamp was graduated this week as an aircraft mechanic from a technical school of the Army Air Forces Technical Training Command. The son of B. H. Kamp, Zion, Mo., he was sworn into the Army on June 10, 1943. He was employed by the shoe factory in Fredericktown before entering the Army.

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4 Mining Firms Now Operating

**St. Louis Smelting & Refining Co. This Week
Started Operation Of Mill And Reduction Plant**

Four separate mining companies are taking lead from the rocks of Madison county and pouring it into the United Nations war effort. The St. Louis Smelting & Refining Co. went into production this week. It was preceded a month ago by the Park City Consolidated Mines Co., operating on the Ruth farm three miles south of Fredericktown. The Fredericktown Lead Co., on the old Catherine property west of Fredericktown, and the St. Joseph Lead Co., at Mine La Motte, have been in steady operation long enough to be

classed as old-timers.

After months of development and the expenditure of many thousands of dollars in drilling and sinking shafts on its own property and the property of the Missouri Cobalt Co., under lease, the St. Louis Smelting & Refining Co. arranged with the Defense Plant Corporation for the building of a great mill and reduction plant, and that plant is now in partial operation. The Murch-Jarvis Construction Co., the contractors, are expected to bring its work to a close within the next month.

The reduction works are located on the site of the old Missouri Cobalt Co. plant. A small amount of the original machinery and equipment was used.

Great crushers have been built, and around them have grown up the various modern means of extracting the lead, the cobalt, the nickel, and the copper-processes too complicated for the comprehension of the ordinary layman.

Huge roasters, for the treatment of the concentrates for better separation of the four major metals, are being built but will probably not be ready for use before the first of April.

Only concentrates will be produced here, and they will be shipped to smelters elsewhere for refining.

Ore is being taken now from four shafts, all connected by a hard-surfaced road with the mill. Huge trucks move the ore. A fifth shaft is to be started, located between No. 1 and No. 2. It is said several other shafts will be put down as the work develops.

It is estimated that a total of about 150 men will be required for the operation of the property. It is said the goal of the management is a production of at least 80 carloads of lead concentrates per month. No estimates of the production of cobalt, copper and nickel could be obtained.

So far the company has been able to obtain all the men required for operation. Older men and less skilled miners have had to be employed, of course.

The Park City Consolidated Mines Co., now in operation about a month, is shipping an average of about five carloads of concentrates per week, and will probably soon reach a production of a carload per day. Park City's ores appear to a casual observer to be very rich. Only lead is being recovered.

The Fredericktown Lead Co. is sinking a new shaft quite some distance southwest of the mill. The shaft follows a long period of intensive drilling which is understood to have exposed a very fine body of rich ore, sufficient to supply the mill for many months.

Other drilling is exposing lead deposits not heretofore known, and miners are predicting an increasingly bright future for the Catherine area.

Of course the St. Joseph Lead Co. maintains its reputation for smoothness of operation.

All the mining development in Madison county adds up to a promise for surplused production during the war, and steady production after peace has come. Lead, copper, cobalt and nickel are expected to be in great demand by industry in rebuilding and repairing the injuries wrought by the war.

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Superfund